"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

On August 19 the Interstate Commerce Commission issued Drought Order No. 71, which authorized the railroads to reduce the freight rates on hay delivered to those counties in Virginia which have been declared disaster areas.

Several railroads have agreeded to reduce freight rates by 50%.

If you reside in a drought designated county (Appomattox County is one of the 62 counties) before ordering a carload of hay or purchasing hay that has moved into this area by freight, you must obtain an "Eligibility Statement For Reduced Rail Rates on Hay Shipment."

This statement is available from the County Extension Office. There is no charge for the statement.

* * *

If you are reading your mail, you'll know that December 15 is the last day that you can report 1977 crop acreage to the ASCS office in order to receive any of the 1977 agriculture program benefits **for the next 4 years.**

Note: The present law gives no one an opportunity to come in on December 16 and say I forgot.

* * *

Light, timely grazing of small grains when the soil is firm will generally not severely reduce grain yields. Heavy, untimely grazing or grazing when the soil is wet will likely reduce grain yields.

* * *

Small grains cannot tolerate extended periods when the soil is satuated with water. Barley is particularly sensitive to poor drainage.

* * *

Some popular ag publications have reported significant yield advantages of under now ripping and planting corn.

This year test demonstrations were conducted in four eastern Virginia counties. There were five tests - one resulted in higher yeilds. There was little or no benefit in the other four.

* * *

Coming Events - Dec. 5 - Beef Artificial Insemination Symposium - Waynesboro. Dec. 6 - Corn Technology Meeting (Part I). Dec. 8 - Corn Technology Meeting (Part II). Dec. 12 - Dairymen's Milking School.

* * *

This week farmers should have received a listing of pesticides which are being considered by EPA for classify or restricted use. Study it carefully. You may want to keep it for reference.

On a 8-year study on the benefits of irrigation of soybeans at the Painter Station shows that early bean varieties had a 9.2 bushel increase when irrigated, while late varieties averaged 4.8 bushels more from added water.

* * *

For Ladies Only - if you have a father, husband, brother or boy friend who farms or works around machinery or tools consider these protective gifts for his Christmas:

Eyes - Safety Spectacles or Goggles
Ears - Ear Plugs or Ear Muffs
Head - Hard Hat or bump hat
Hands - Rubber leather or canvas gloves
Feet - Safety toe shoes
Lungs - Dust Mask, Cartridge Respirator.

AUDITIONS FOR "A STREET CAR NAMED DESIRE"

The Daniel Players will hold auditions for Tennessee William's great American classic, "A Street Car Named Desire" in the Little Theater on the John H. Daniel Campus of SVCC in Keysville on Monday and Tuesday, December 5th and 6th at 7:30 p.m.

This powerful drama cataloguing the schizophrenic disintegration of a Southern Belle, Blanche Dubois, has enjoyed enormous popularity since it opened on Broadway in 1947 and has always been considered one of the most emotional experiences in the American Theater.

The cast calls for 6 men and 6 women.

The Daniel Players will cast and rehearse the play for two weeks in December. A two week recess in production is planned over the holiday with a resumption after New Year's and presentation the last of January.

Further information about the try-outs can be had by calling 392-8508 or 736-8484, asking for Prof. Keiser.

Wood Burning Stoves

The worsening energy situation has caused many to use wood-burning fireplaces or stoves to reduce the use of oil or electricity to heat their homes. Increasing usage of firewood offers a good opportunity for many woodland owners to weed out low quality trees for firewood. While most of the soils of Appomattox County are better suited for pine than hardwood, well-managed hardwoods on suitable soils can be a higher value crop than pine.

A 120 c. ft. cord of hickory for an airtight stove has the heating equalivent of 136 gallons of heating oil. With electricity at .04c per KWH, a cord of hickory firewood would have an equivalent heating value of $144.00 when used in an airtight stove. Oak has about 90% of the heating value of hickory.

Unless the landowner cuts the trees himself, trees to be cut (or left) should be marked. Information on soil productivity for various tree species and assistance in conservation planning is available to cooperators of the Robert E. Lee Soil & Water Conservation District through the Soil Conservation Service office. Virginia Division of Forestry can provide assistance in marking trees to be removed. By properly selectively removing firewood from our woodlots, we can improve the growth quality of the remaining trees.

Earl J. Shiflet Speaker At Conf. On Land & Water Resource

The Honorable Earl J. Shiflet, Secretary of Commerce and Resources, will be among the 14 persons from state universities and agencies speaking before the Conference on Land and Water Resource Management Issues in Virginia being held in Charlottesville on Dec. 6 and 7.

Water supply problems will be analyzed by Col. Newman A. Howard, Jr. of the Norfolk Office of the Army Corps of Engineers, Robert Davis of the Water Control Board, and William Cox of Virginia Tech.

Donald W. Budlong will discuss the features of the Coastal Resources Management Program being developed for Virginia's coastal zone.

State growth policy will be the subject of a presentation by Richmond consultant Julian F. Tarrant.

Local land use control procedures recommended in the Model Land Development Code of the American Law Institute will be discussed by Lawerence L. Hoover, Jr. of Harrisonburg.

Fred W. Bosselman, a nationally recognized planner and major contributor to the Model Land Development Code, will speak on the morning of Dec. 7.

If you need more information about this conference, contact your local Extension office - the telephone number is 352-9244, or write: Adult Registrar, CEC/VPI&SU, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

The conference registration fee is $40, and it covers the cost of two meals, breaks, and educational materials.

The Virginia Tech Extension Division and the Virignia Water Resources Research Center are sponsoring this conference.

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GOOD NEWS FOR HOMEMAKERS

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

Treating Greenery for Holiday Decorations

To Preserve Shrubbery: For treating cedar, boxwoods, Japanese pine, holly, ivy, etc., mix one part anti-freeze (Use a good brand) to two parts of water in a large container. Immerse greenery completely, weighting with a large rock if necessary. Let the greenery remain in this solution at least one week - ten days to two weeks if possible. Remove greenery from the solution and dry on newspapers. Spray with florist's spray. Greens should keep this way for several years.

To Preserve Berries: Dip berries in a mixture of one-half shellac and one-half alcohol. Hang them on a line to dry thoroughly.

To Dry Pine Cones: Line a cookie sheet or jelly roll pan with aluminum foil - cones will drip sap as they dry. Place the cones on a foil and bake them in a 200 electric oven for several hours.

To Silver Magnolia Leaves: Pour a small amount of aluminum paint into a deep container almost filled with water. Dip the leaves to be silvered into the water and draw them slowly. Hold over the container until the dripping has stopped. Hang them to dry over newspapers for 24 hours. Aluminum paint for metal surfaces will give a more silver appearance than aluminum paint for wood. Use the same process with gold paint for a gilded effect.

SPECIAL NOTE: Be sure to select a fresh tree for Christmas. This tree should have a fresh cut and be kept in water in a tree stand when you place it inside your home.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK
Homemade Sweetened Condensed Milk
1 cup instant nonfat dried milk
⅓ cup sugar
⅓ cup boiling water
3 tablespoons melted butter or margarine

Combine all ingredients in the container of an electric blender. Process until smooth. Store in refrigerator until ready to use. Yield: 1¼ cups.

This condensed sweetened milk can be used in pies, candies, frostings and ice creams. Hint -- if you will dissolve your sugar in the boiling water, this will cut down on the graininess of the prepared milk.

Many thanks to Mrs. Blanche Poe for sharing this money-saving recipe with us.

Warning Given To Motorists

RICHMOND, VA. - During the hunting season motorists need to be especially alert for deer and other wild animals that may dart across the highway.

Over 3,000 deer are killed annually by motor vehicles in Virginia, resulting in vehicle damage, injury and even death to motorists.

"This year with the beginning of deer season Nov. 21, collisions between vehicles and wildlife are expected to continue to present a problem," accroding to John T. Hanna, director, Highway Safety Division of Virginia.

"A deer, which weighs as much as 185 pounds, can become a dangerous obstacle to motorists if the animal is frightened and attempts to cross a lane of traffic," said the safety official. "Drivers must constantly be on the lookout for any movement along the shoulders of roadways because animal behavior is so unpredictable."

Deer crossing signs mark mountainous and forested regions where deer are prevalent and provide a warning to motorists. A driver traveling through such areas should reduce his speed and keep his foot poised over his brake pedal to allow extra time to react in an emergency situation.

"A large percentage of collisions between vehicles and animals occur at night when visibility is reduced. For this reason it is helpful for drivers to seek the assistance of their passengers in scanning the side of the road for animals. With everyone watching, the chances of being involved in a collision can be reduced," concluded Hanna.

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Grant American Farm Bureau Speaker

Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, will be the keynote speaker for the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation.

Grant, former California Farm Bureau president until he was elected AFBF president, has taken national leadship in a fight against labor union monopoly and efforts to expand international markets for U.S. agricultural products.

Grant's tussle with labor unions began when he was leading the California Farm Bureau and Cesar Chavez began organizing farm workers.

Grant says he sees the growing union monopoly as the greatest threat to the American economy.

In efforts to boost American trade overseas, Grant has led trade missions to Rome, Geneva, Brussels, Helsinki, Tokyo, Mixico City, Israel and other world centers.

The American Farm Bureau Federation has a membership of nearly 3 million families. It is the largest general farm organization in the United States and the world.

Robert B. Delano, president of the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, is vice president of AFBF and has worked with Grant in major efforts of the national Farm Bureau.

The Mighty Four 4-H Club

On Nov. 8, 1977 the Mighty Four 4-H Club had their monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order by our president, David Caldwell. The first order of the day was the discussion of the Share-the-Fun Program. A topic was chosen, it is "Young Virginians on Stage." Next, our projects that we had completed were given back and discussed. Mr. Sweet, our leader, stressed the importance of doing projects and being active in all 4-H events. Coming up in January is the "Public Speaking Program". We were urged to start thinking about a topic now. The program was on forestry and the jobs related to forestry. We saw a film on forestry and some of the problems faced. The program was given by Miss Karen Knapp of Westvaco. The meeting was adjourned.

Allen Smith, Reporter

Miss Burk's 4-H Club

Miss Burk's 4-H Club met on Nov. 15, 1977. Our president, Kevin Kendricks, opened our meeting. Then Timmy Austin lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and Jo Ellen Garrett lead us in the 4-H Pledge. Our recreation leaders lead us in a game. Then the secretary read the minutes of the last meeting. We then talked about projects. Our president, Ken Kendricks, closed the meeting.

Kevin Garrett, Reporter

RULES FOR 1915 SCHOOLTEACHERS

Truly, the life-style of a schoolteacher has changed radically in the last 50 or 60 years. For example, a 1915 teachers' magazine listed the following rules of conduct for teachers of that day:

You will not marry during the term of your contract.
You are not to keep company with men.
You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
You may not loiter downtown in any of the ice cream stores.
You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
You may not smoke cigarettes.
You may not dress in bright colors.
You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
You must wear at least two petticoats.
Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day; and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

"Buckeye Farm News"

Conduct SS Business By Telephone

Most people can conduct almost all of their social security business over the telephone, thus avoiding a possible long wait in the office, Puryear, social security manager in Farmville said today.

Most anything from applying for benefits to reporting a lost or stolen check can be done over the phone. Puryear listed the following services that can be taken care of by phone.

Apply for social security or supplemental security income (SSI) payments.

Apply for Medicare.

Change of name or address for social security records.

Report change in marital status.

Report that person has stopped or started work or to report other events that may affect checks.

Report lost or missing social security or Medicare card.

Get help with filling out Medicare claims form.

Arrange for direct deposit of monthly checks.

Request a statement of earnings.

Find out if a particular health care facility takes part in Medicare.

Get help in requesting review of the decision made on a claim.

A person can also call to get information or publications about social security, Medicare, or SSI.

Puryear gave these tips on getting the best service from social security:

Don't call during the first week of a month. This is the time checks are issued and social security offices are especially busy and a person may have trouble getting a call through.

Unless a person's business is urgent, Puryear suggested that he or she wait until after the first week of the month to call. The later in the month the call is made, the better the chance of making an immediate connection.

If a person's call concerns monthly benefit checks, he or she should have the proper social security claim number available. And if the call is about Medicare, the Medicare card should be handy.

The Farmville Social Security office telephone number is 391-6121. The office is located at 307 E. Third St. and is opeen Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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The Times-Virginian

"A good statue can be rolled downhill without damage." Michelangelo

"A thief believes everybody steals." E. W. Howe

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- ☐ Trucks
- ☐ Cars
- ☐ Boats
- ☐ Bikes
- ☐ Campers
- ☐ Trailers
- ☐ Outdoor Furniture
- ☐ Lawn and Garden Equipment
- ☐ Snowmobiles
- ☐ (A Handy Hideaway)

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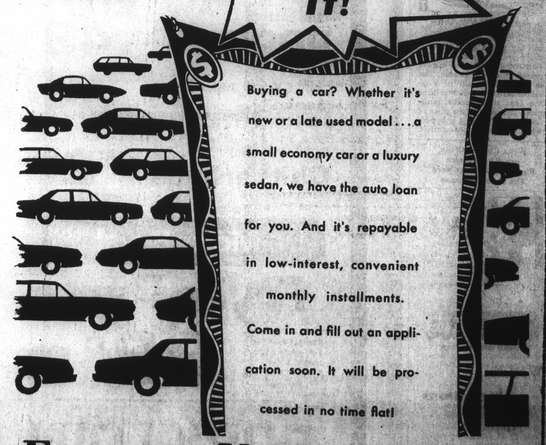

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